

New Hampshire National Guard's 39th Army Band Plays at NH Veterans Home

TILTON, NH - The 26 members of the New Hampshire National Guard's 39th Army Band from Manchester, NH, played a foot-stomping, hand-clapping concert at the New Hampshire Veterans Home (NHVH) on Wednesday, July 2. Warrant Officer Paul Desmaris, who also teaches music at Smith Road Elementary School in Manchester, conducted the concert band. Selections included "Stars and Stripes Forever" and other patriotic songs by John Philip Sousa; "For Our Heroes," a tribute to all men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces; and "Armed Forces on Parade," which featured a musical tribute to each branch of the armed forces. The audience of veterans enthusiastically saluted when the band played the anthem from their branch of the service.

Additional selections also included "Louie, Louie," other rock and roll songs, and "Knockin' on Heaven's Door;" which was sung by Specialist Sayr Hardy of Manchester, who also works at the Veterans Home.

At the New Hampshire Veterans Home, music is an integral part of the Therapeutic Recreation programs. Professional entertainers are featured monthly, and seasonal dances are enjoyed by both residents and staff. Research has shown that there are many musical centers in the human brain, so even if part of the brain is damaged by disease or injury, other parts can still respond to music. Music can evoke strong positive emotions; these emotions help people grow, become energized for positive action, solve problems, improve the quality of relationships, and increase one's sense of emotional well-being.

Members of the 39th Army Band: Specialist Sayr Hardy of Manchester, Warrant Officer Paul Desmaris, and Sgt. Linda Jezierski, were part of the 26-member concert band that played at the NH Veterans Home recently.

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. One of just four New Hampshire nursing homes to win the 2007 Quality of Life Award from the NH Department of Health & Human Services, the modern facility is home to 200 men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State's elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

